



Harney County Watershed Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 16, 2023
meeting by Zoom & HCWC office
Hines, Oregon

Membership & Attendance:
(those in attendance will be highlighted)

Landowner positions:

Alvord –
Donner und Blitzen – Fred Otley
Guano –
Harney/Malheur Lakes –
Silvies – Rachel Beaubien
Silver Creek – Angie Ketscher
Drewsey –
Landowner General – **Pat Sharp**
Burns Paiute Tribe – **Brandon Haslick**

Concerned Citizen positions:

Burns/Hines –
At Large –
General - Rep. Mark Owens
Sportsman – Sam Artize
Education – Dustin Johnson
Environmental – Alexa Martinez
County Court – Kristen Shelman
Harney SWCD – Susan Doverspike
BLM – **Jamie McCormack**

Advisory Positions

ODF & W – Dave Banks
Malheur National Wildlife – **Jeff Mackay**
NRCS – Zola Ryan
EOARC – Chad Boyd
OWRD – Dally Swindlehurst
USFS -

Staff

Coordinator – Karen Moon

Guests – Sam Artize, Jason Kesling-SWCD, Holly Mondo

Mission of the Harney County Watershed Council

Harney County Watershed Council works to improve watershed health for the benefit of our communities and the environment!

Vision of the Harney County Watershed Council

People in Harney County are working together to ensure healthy watersheds and thriving communities.



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The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

Chairman Jamie McCormack welcomed everyone to the meeting, reviewed the agenda and asked each member to share a short update on what is happening in their world.

Members shared that they were pleased with the outcome of the OWEB funding of projects at the board meeting last week. Sam Aritze shared that five applications that he worked on were funded. Jamie shared that the BLM is in the process of Rule Making for the new "Public Lands Rule" she encouraged anyone interested to review the documents and give input. She also shared that the Sagegrouse Draft EIS is out for public review this summer and if anyone knows of housing in the community there are several seasonal employees looking for a place to stay. Pat shared that they are enjoying watching Soldier Creek as it passes by their house. Jeff talked about the employee situation at the Refuge, several of the employees are moving on to other jobs. Jeff is winding down to his retirement at the end of May. Lots of water, almost too much in Diamond, Moon Reservoir is full. Jess Wenick will be taking on the official representation for the Refuge on the Water Collaborative, and to the Council. Brandon shared that the Tribe is busy with amphibian surveys and lots of recharge happening, field season is starting.'

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Holly gave an update on the Water Planning Collaborative. The workgroups are completing their Step 2 & 3 documents and starting to brainstorm a Critical Issues list for each area. The Coordinating committee is working on a plan to develop the Critical Issues list and deal with things that may come up within the collaborative so that we do not have some of the same problems as the groundwater plan. So far, the process will be to have the working groups do a first draft of the issues. The coordinating committee has agreed to a form that was created for submission of the issues.

There was a tour this morning for collaborative members to see more of the Silvies Distribution system. It was good conversation, and good to see how the water moves through the valley.

Strategic Planning:

Karen reported that she had talked with Jason Kesling from SWCD and Brenda Smith from HDP, we each received press releases from OWEB regarding our projects that were funded at the board meeting last week. We are working together with Lauren Brown from the Burns Times Herald to have an article about all of our projects.

With regards to the 25th Anniversary gathering, there were suggestions of several places to hold the meeting. The Committee so far is Jamie, Karen, Pat and Angie. Locations suggested included the Boy Scout camp, Idlewild, the Barn on Rhue Red Road or possibly Hines Park?



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There was discussion on the Free Spray Day and the EOARC field day. Karen will share the flyers with council members by email.

Membership & Bylaws:

The results of the email vote for updating the Bylaws was approved. There was discussion on the Board member handbooks from a number of years ago. Karen will work on updating any remaining handbooks. With the bylaws updated, a letter from Sam Artize was read with regards to his interest in joining the Council. After discussion, Jason Kesling moved to approve Sam Artize as a member in the Sportsman position. Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

June meeting in Diamond:

There was discussion about the Diamond meeting for our June meeting. Karen will contact the school and the Hotel to see about securing a meeting place. The council will go through our standard agenda, Jason Kesling shared they would be interested in joining us to talk to any locals that may attend to let them know of projects that could be available. Karen will include information about water planning and the Rules Advisory Committee being formed.

New Business

Range Camp:

It was noted that there was a possibility of holding an alternate Range Camp during May, however this did not work out. Planning will continue for camp for next year.

Budget:

Karen presented a draft budget and reviewed it with members present. There are a couple of totals that need to be reviewed. Karen will work on updating those numbers and send out prior to the June meeting for review.

CWMA Puncturevine Pull Activity:

Karen shared that the CWMA is planning a community outreach event called the Puncturevine Pull. It will take place in early July. The CWMA is purchasing t-shirts. The competition will involve people pulling puncturevine and then bringing it to the County yard to be weighed. After discussion, Sam Artize moved to donate \$150 towards prizes for the activity. Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

It was also noted that the CWMA Free Spray Day will be June 3rd in the Big R parking lot.



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Minutes & Financials:

Minutes from February, March and April were reviewed. Pat Sharp moved to accept all minutes as presented. Justin Kesling seconded and the motion passed.

Financials were reviewed.

It was noted that EOARC is having their Field Day on June 21 out at the Butte.

Items for next agenda: Next meeting will be June 20, 2023. Items proposed include CBWP update, Strategic planning, Membership and planning for the event in August.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Karen Moon, Coordinator